

February 2, 2021

CITY OF SASKATOON
HONOURABLE MAYOR CLARK AND COUNCILLORS
222 THIRD AVE N
SASKATOON SK S7K 0J5

c/o The University of Saskatchewan's (UofS) Vaccine and Infectious Disease Organization (VIDO)

Saskatoon Regional Economic Development Authority (SREDA) is an independent non-profit economic development organization whose mandate is to help grow the local economy by providing economic information and analysis to aid in business planning, attracting new businesses, helping local companies grow, supporting entrepreneurs, coordinating regional economic development planning and marketing the Saskatoon Region.

SREDA is funded by the City of Saskatoon, regional municipalities, and over 100 private sector investors. With their support, SREDA helps grow the local economy, creating jobs and prosperity for the Saskatoon Region.

Saskatoon is home to one of the largest and most advanced level three containment labs in the world – VIDO at the UofS. With 150 interdisciplinary personnel, over \$200 million in containment infrastructure and more than four decades of experience, VIDO is a world leader in vaccine development.

In 2020, VIDO received \$35 million in federal funding to help strengthen its COVID-19 research and vaccine development as well as complete the construction of a pilot scale GMP manufacturing facility. VIDO's COVID-19 vaccine is now beginning clinical trials in Halifax. In order to expand VIDO's position as a national and world leader in vaccine research and development as well as further realize its vision to protect Canada and the world from infectious diseases, VIDO is looking for Federal, Provincial and municipal government funding to help create a National Centre for Pandemic Research. These funds will support further in-house vertical integration expand animal housing and recruiting new scientific personnel to Saskatoon.

SREDA, as the economic development authority for the Saskatoon Region recognizes the economic and social impact of such an investment in our community's future. We encourage the Saskatoon City Council to show their support for VIDO, the UofS and continued economic growth in the Saskatoon Region by politically and financially supporting VIDO's proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Alex Fallon".

Alex Fallon
President & CEO

